



1. Mr. Morley Parry A613
2. Dr. Martin A613

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR

1962

BY

P. V. CANT,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health to the
Huntingdon Rural District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES OF
THE HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of Council: G. L. GREY, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of Public Health Committee: J. H. MOSS, Esq., M.B.E.

Chairman of Housing Committee: W. GRINDLEY, Esq.

Chairman of Finance Committee: R. F. HOEFKENS, Esq.

Medical Officer of Health: P. V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: B. R. DIXON, M.P.H.I.A.

Surveyor: J. S. SIMMS.

Part-time Analytical Chemist: S. GREENBURGH, Esq., Tenison Road, Cambridge, and the Public Health Laboratory Service.

Pathologist: Public Health Laboratory Service: Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Consulting Engineers: MESSRS. PICK, EVERARD, KEAY, & GIMSON.

REPORT

ON THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT FOR 1962

To the Huntingdon Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my fifth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1962.

The area is situated mainly in the west centre of Huntingdonshire; extending 13 miles to the west and 10 miles to the north of the County Town.

The population are mostly engaged in agriculture and its associated industries.

The District contains Airfields, and there are a large number of British and American Air Force personnel resident in the area.

The population mid-year estimate, supplied by the Registrar General, gives a figure of 15,490.

The health of the District has been good throughout the year, with no epidemics.

The live birth rate is again high (21·2) and when adjusted it becomes 29·3 per thousand, as compared to a national average of 18·0 per thousand of the population.

There were 118 deaths during the year as compared to 96 during 1961, but even this gives a low death rate of 7·6 per thousand which when adjusted becomes 11·2 as against a national average of 11·9.

I am glad to note that the infant mortality rate has dropped to 18·3 per thousand births, which is lower than it has been for four years, being slightly below the national rate.

As the Public Health Inspector points out in his section of the report, the demolition of unfit property is progressing well, and is ahead of schedule. Seventeen demolition orders were made during the year, and thirty-five houses were demolished, some of these houses having been subject to demolition orders during the previous year.

Seventeen new bungalows and eight flats were built by the Local Authority during the year, and thirty-three new houses and bungalows were built by private enterprise.

The new sewage works for the Village of Upwood was working by the end of the year, the necessary house connections having been made, chiefly to houses which already had W.C.'s. Consideration is now being given to the houses with pail closets which require converting to W.C.'s and connecting.

Included in the Annual Report since 1944 have been tables with reference to the water supply, showing the sources, the quantity pumped, and its distribution village by village. These tables are no longer included, because in April 1962 the water distribution for the area was taken over by the Nene and Ouse Water Board, the Council now acting as agents for the Board.

In conclusion, I gratefully acknowledge the help which I have received during the year from the Members of the Council, their Officers and Staff.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area, in acres	...	...	...	...	...	69,937
Estimated Population (mid-1962)	...	...	...	...	...	15,490
Density of Population per acre	...	...	...	...	...	0.22
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1962	...	...	...	...	...	3,455
Number of Inhabited Houses, excluding Air Ministry	...	...	...	...	...	2,662
Rateable Value, 31-12-62	...	...	...	...	...	£146,292
Product of Penny Rate, 31-3-62	...	...	...	...	...	£590

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	328
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	21.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...	...	4.27
Stillbirths						
Number	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	12.1
Total Live and Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	332
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	...	...	...	...	...	6
Infant Mortality Rates						
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	15.2
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)						
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	7.6

INFANT DEATHS

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Number of Deaths	3	2	6	8	9	6
Death Rates of Infants per 1,000 live births	10·3	8·3	23	33·5	30·9	18·3

Deaths from Cancer (total)	...	...	...	...	...	16
Cancer of Lung or Bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	7
Cancer of the Stomach	...	...	...	...	...	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...	...	...	...	22
Other Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	15
Deaths due to Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	6

Comparison of Rates with those of England and Wales:—

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live births	Per 1,000 Total births
	Live Birth Rate	Adjusted Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Adjusted Death Rate	Infantile Mortality	Still Births
Huntingdon	21·2	29·3	7·6	11·2	18·3	12·1
Rural England & Wales	—	18·0	—	11·9	21·4	18·1

Comparability factor for births, 1·38 and for deaths, 1·48.

The Comparability factors shown under the table of birth and death rates are supplied by the Registrar General. When our rates are multiplied by these figures they are comparable with the national figures, or with the adjusted rates of anywhere else in the country. In issuing the factors, allowance is made for any unusual distribution of age groups in the population—for instance, a large number of Air Force personnel being resident.

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar General's figures):—

Causes of Death					M.	F.	Totals
All causes					66	52	118
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	1	2	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	7	—	7
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	5	1	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	7	9	16
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	14	8	22
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	—	1	1
20.	Other heart diseases	...	...	...	7	8	15
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	1	5	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	—	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	6	8
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	1	6
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	—	3	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	—	2
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	8	5	13
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	—	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	4	1	5
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	1	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 yr.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

P. V. CANT.

New Health Clinic,
Whittlesey Road,
Stanground,
Peterborough.

Peterborough 68010.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

MONTAGU HOUSE,
HUNTINGDON.

SEWERS

The villages of Alconbury, Alconbury Weston, Brampton, Sawtry, Conington and Upwood have new sewers and sewage disposal works. A sewerage scheme for The Stukeleys is now being prepared.

HOUSING

Number of houses in the district at the end of 1961	...	...	3,436
Number of new houses constructed during 1962	...	...	58
Number of houses demolished or closed during 1962	...	...	38
Number of houses in the district at the end of 1962	...	...	3,456

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

No. of houses with W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	2,640
Number of houses with pail closets	...	...	...	...	753
Number of W.C.'s constructed for new houses	...	...	...	...	69
Number of W.C.'s newly constructed for old properties	...	...	...	...	24
Number of W.C. conversions grant aided (Sec. 47 P.H.A. 1936)	...	...	...	...	2

CONVERSIONS TO WATER CLOSETS

Pail closet conversions to water closets were virtually completed in the Village of Sawtry in 1962. The only closets not converted were at those properties which either have Demolition Orders on them, are likely to be subject to Demolition Orders in the near future or are to be improved with the assistance of improvement grants.

DUSTBINS

Number of houses with dustbins	...	...	...	...	2,767
Number of new bins provided during the year	...	...	...	...	69

SCAVENGING

Details of Collection

Frequency—Night soil	...	...	...	...	Weekly
Dry refuse	...	...	Part weekly	—	part fortnightly
Transport and No. of men	...	...	...	2 vehicles,	6 men

Whole area is covered.

Particulars of service(s)—

Unburnable refuse collection and night soil collection.

Details of disposal arrangements—

Controlled tipping. Night soil to land and Alconbury

Sewage works.

Development required—

None.

Complaints received re non-removal	...	...	...	...	22
No. of bins emptied	...	...	...	...	2,954
No. of pail closets emptied	...	...	...	...	337

DRAINS

New drains tested	...	...	...	...	81
Existing drains inspected...	...	...	...	...	103
Existing drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	53

SEWERAGE WORKS

The provision of sewers and sewage works in the Village of Upwood were sufficiently advanced that the use of them was possible by the end of the year. The bye-passing of septic tanks, the laying of house connections and the connections of existing drains to the new sewers were completed. Investigations into the conversions of pail closets to water closets were carried out, but it was evident that owners of the property were, in the majority of instances, concerned with the possibilities of the provision of bathrooms incorporating water closets

rather than conversions alone. Standard Grants are therefore more likely to be used than the W.C. conversion grants.

TRADE EFFLUENTS

During the year investigations were made into the discharge of sewage from farm premises, piggeries and the private slaughterhouse to the Council's sewers and the treatment of such sewage at the sewage works in order that the Council could formulate a policy for charging for the reception and treatment of such sewage. So far as existing sewers were concerned most of the farms were connected at the same time as house connections were made. Owing to the complications of providing alternative treatment and the uncertainty of the charge to be made for the reception and treatment of the farm sewage none of the owners or occupiers would commit themselves until more was known of the Council's intentions.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

No. of disposal works for villages	...	...	...	...	4
No. of disposal works for Council Houses	...	...	...	...	3
No. of cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES

No. of shops inspected	...	...	...	...	...	46
Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	59

LITTER BASKETS

A comprehensive scheme for the provision of litter baskets in all the Villages in the District was embarked upon during the year. Approximately half of the baskets have been provided and fixed. Considerable care was taken in selecting a type which, whilst being functional, would be pleasing, decorative and suited to rural surroundings. The sites for fixing them were also carefully selected.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No. of licences in force December, 1962 (Multiple Sites)	...	11
No. of caravans on these sites	...	156
No. of licences for single caravans	...	22
Estimated No. of residents on all sites	...	561
No. of inspections made	...	297
No. of nuisances investigated	...	26
No. of nuisances remedied	...	21

The majority of the multiple sites have been kept in a reasonable state. There have been problems involving effluent discharges, defective drains and leaking water services. Most of these were cleared up.

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of licences issued as renewals	...	...	...	...	61
No. of new licences issued	...	...	...	...	2
Total number of licences in force	...	...	...	...	63
No. of tanks and pipe lines tested	...	...	...	...	5

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

DISINFESTATION

(a) *Bed Bugs*

No. of houses infested—								
(a) Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
(b) Private	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
No. of houses disinfested—								
(a) Council	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
(b) Private	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

Precautionary measures taken to ensure tenants' belongings are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses:

Inspection only.

(b) <i>Cockroaches</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
PESTS ACT, 1949								
No. of houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	706
No. of houses treated and cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	330
Total number of properties inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	994
Total number of major rat infestations found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of minor rat infestations found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	529
Total number of properties treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	529
Total number of notices served under Sec. 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

During the latter half of 1962 the infestations, although decreasing very little in numbers, did not compare with the previous year in that the actual numbers of rats in the infestations were considerably less. The majority of the work was carried out in ditches and hedgerows rather than in the buildings. Progress has been made in securing the storage of corn in such a manner as to make treatment more efficient. Quite a number of farmers with whom agreements for pest control have been made now stack bagged corn in such a manner as to leave access between the rows of bags and along the walls, thereby permitting systematic baiting and poisoning.

An additional Rodent Operative was engaged to work part-time on rodent control and part-time with the Surveyor's Departments, but owing to ill health he was unable to continue. The authority given by the Council to appoint an additional operative at a convenient time is still valid.

DISINFECTION

No cases of an infectious disease were reported for disinfection.

PUBLIC HEALTH HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The standard continues to improve, but there is still much work to be done.

BAKEHOUSES

No. in the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

General conditions in these bakehouses are satisfactory.

NUISANCES

Abated as a result of informal action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
Abated as a result of Statutory action	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL

<i>Analysis of nuisances</i>							<i>No. of</i>
							<i>Inspections</i>
Premises	...	...	...	...	...	93	186
Accumulations of Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	5	12
Foul ditches	...	...	...	...	...	3	14
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	42	123
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	NIL

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No. of Slaughter Houses on register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of visits for the inspection of meat to—								
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL
Vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24

FOOD PREMISES

General Stores	Cafes	Butchers	Licensed Premises	Bakehouses
38	7	5	31	2

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle Excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed (if known) ...	104	28	—	368	258	0
Number inspected ...	104	28	—	368	258	0
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6	2	Nil	2	2	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	5.79	7.14	Nil	0.54	1.16	Nil
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	0.96	Nil	Nil	Nil	1.55	Nil
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

Total number of outbreaks	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of cases ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of deaths ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

No. on Register ...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Inspections ...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Contraventions found	...	...	...	...	...	2
Contraventions remedied ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Formal notices ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

STREET NAMES AND NUMBERING

The naming of streets and the numbering of houses is now completed in the villages of Alconbury, Brampton, Sawtry and Upwood.

Negotiations with the Parish Councils of Great Gidding and The Stukeleys have taken place. Street names for these villages have been selected and approved.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	493
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	697
(2)	Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	37
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	124

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

(a)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants	131
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit with the assistance of Improvement Grants ...	21

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

(C)—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1957, & Sections 10 (1) & 11 (2) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made... ..	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	35
(3) Number of houses closed during the year ...	2
(4) Number of families displaced during the year	21

(D)—Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	3
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

(E)—Proceedings under Part III of the Housing Act, 1957, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:—

CLEARANCE AREAS:—

(1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year	Nil
(2) Total number of houses included in (1) above	Nil
(3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil
(5) Number of families displaced during the year	Nil
(6) Number of houses demolished during the year	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV. Overcrowding

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	8
	(ii)	Number of families therein	8
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	36
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	11
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to over-crowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	Nil

SLUM CLEARANCE

When the slum clearance programme was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in September 1955 the number of houses considered to be unfit for human habitation was 356. This figure included 39 temporary houses of the nissen hut and concrete type adapted by the Council to relieve the serious housing shortage in the early 1950's. The tenants of these properties were either re-housed or moved away from the District and the temporary houses were demolished. Of the remaining 317 which were unfit 27 have been demolished voluntarily leaving 290 for representation to the Council. The present position is that 219 have been dealt with, being 8 in a clearance area and 211 as individual unfit houses. 162 have been demolished and 14 are the subject of undertakings. It is noteworthy that in only three instances has the owner or his representative attended the appropriate Committee meetings in consequence of a Time and Place Notice and then only to request that the houses be used for purposes other than housing. The Council's housing programme is well ahead of the policy laid down in 1955.

The distribution of the unfit houses in the Villages which have been dealt with is shown in the following table:—

PARISH						NUMBER OF HOUSES
Alconbury	...	...	...	...	...	4
Alconbury Weston	...	...	...	...	...	1
Barham and Woolley	...	...	...	...	...	2
Brampton	...	...	...	...	...	39
Brington and Molesworth	...	...	...	...	...	10
Buckworth	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bythorn and Keyston	...	...	...	...	...	2
Conington	...	...	...	...	...	4
Easton	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ellington	...	...	...	...	...	14
Great Gidding	...	...	...	...	...	15
Little Gidding	...	...	...	...	...	—
Steeple Gidding	...	...	...	...	...	6
Hamerton	...	...	...	...	...	1
Leighton	...	...	...	...	...	19
Old Weston	...	...	...	...	...	—
Abbots Ripton	...	...	...	...	...	6
Kings Ripton	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wennington	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sawtry	...	...	...	...	...	52
Spaldwick	...	...	...	...	...	5
The Stukeleys	...	...	...	...	...	12
Upton and Coppingford	...	...	...	...	...	6
Upwood and The Raveleys	...	...	...	...	...	21
Winwick	...	...	...	...	...	6
Woodwalton	...	...	...	...	...	7
TOTAL						246

From this it will be seen that the Villages in the north west of the Area have not received much attention. In the Villages of Keyston, Bythorn, Brington, Molesworth and Old Weston only 12 houses have been represented.

There is no doubt that there are houses which are unfit in this Area and the problem could be solved partially by the provision of additional dwellings in Brampton or The Stukeleys for the tenants of Council Houses who wish to transfer to these Villages from this part of the District (the proportion wishing to move, as proved by a survey, is some 20%) thereby releasing Council Houses which could be occupied by families from unfit houses.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

(a) *Discretionary*

The number of applications received has been disappointingly low during this year, only 11 having been submitted. Towards the end of the year the Council decided to try to accelerate the rate of improvement by requiring the inspection of those properties which could be improved with the aid of grants and by persuading owners to take advantage of the facilities offered. It is inevitable that problems other than the availability of professional people for the preparation of plans and specifications, the obtaining of tenders and the shortage of building labour will arise, such as questions of re-housing where two or more small cottages can only be adapted to form one dwelling house, where it will be inconvenient for the occupier to remain in residence during building operations and the re-housing of the occupier when an owner decides that the expense of improvement is uneconomical. The Council, however, are fully alive to the position and are prepared to meet each situation as it arises.

(b) *Standard Grants*

Ten houses were improved with the assistance of Standard Grants, the cost to the Council being £1,349 0s. 0d. Since the inception of this type of grant the number of approvals given is 67, but 6 were either withdrawn or cancelled before payment was made because of breach of conditions. The number of approvals given during 1962 was 13.

To reduce the delay between the receipt of the application and grant approval, authority was given to the Clerk of the Council and the Public Health Inspector to issue approvals without prior reference to the Council, but information respecting each case is submitted to the Council.

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair have been received and no action taken under the above Act.

COUNTY PLANNING OFFICER'S REPORT ON RURAL POLICY

When the County Planning Officer's Draft Report on a Rural Policy for Huntingdonshire was received it was found that Great and Little Stukeley were placed in a class where expansion would be limited to agricultural necessity and minor infilling. The Council felt very strongly that these two villages should be allowed to expand to a greater degree than that recommended and representations were made to the County Planning Officer to that effect. Evidently the arguments submitted by the Council were insufficient to alter the views of the Planning Committee, since no alteration on this subject was made when the report was adopted.

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1962

VILLAGE	NEW HOUSES BY		NEW BUNGALOWS		NEW FLATS	TOTAL
	L.A.	P.E.	L.A.	P.E.	L.A.	
Alconbury	—	—	1	—	—	1
Alconbury Weston	—	1	—	2	—	3
Brampton	—	6	8	1	8	23
Buckworth... ..	—	—	—	1	—	1
Easton	—	1	—	—	—	1
Great Gidding ...	—	—	6	1	—	7
Sawtry	—	4	—	3	—	7
Great Stukeley ...	—	6	—	3	—	9
Upton	—	—	—	1	—	1
Upwood	—	1	2	2	—	5
	NIL	19	17	14	8	58

In addition to the above the following have been completed during 1962—

Huntingdonshire County Council: 2 Police Houses, Brampton.

2 Police Houses, Sawtry.

1 Police House, Great Stukeley.

Air Ministry:

6 houses, Belle Isle, Brampton.

WATER SUPPLIES

In April of this year the whole of the water distribution of the Area passed to the Nene and Ouse Water Board although the Council still continued to act as agents for the Board.

In the Annual Report for the year 1937 there appears the following item under the heading Water Supply—"a piped supply has been provided for the greater part of the Riptons, Raveleys, Upwood, The Stukeleys, Alconburys and Upton as well as the aerodromes at Upwood and Wyton". This was the first mention of the provision of piped water supplies in the Area and was designated "Regional Water Scheme". In 1944 the Annual Report shows that piped water supplies were available in Sawtry, Conington and Woodwalton (extension of Regional Scheme) and in Great Gidding, Winwick and Hamerton (Gidding Water Scheme). By the end of 1947 Brampton, Ellington, Easton and Spaldwick (Brampton Water Scheme) were supplied and in 1953 the Molesworth Scheme supplying Bythorn, Keyston, Brington, Molesworth, Old Weston, Leighton and Barham was completed (Molesworth Water Scheme). An extension to the Gidding Scheme making piped water supplies to Little Gidding and Steeple Gidding meant that every Village in the Rural District had a piped water supply available.

The Gidding Scheme and Molesworth Scheme were supplied with water bought in bulk from the Oundle and Thrapston Rural District Council; the Brampton Scheme from a source developed by Air Ministry at Bromholme Lane, Brampton which was taken over by Huntingdon Borough Council and the Regional Scheme from the Council's catchment area and wells at Houghton.

The first recorded output from the Houghton Source as shown in the Annual Reports was in 1944 when the figure was 282,767 gallons per day. By the end of 1961 the figure was 665,835 gallons per day. Between these years many improvements and additions were made at the source and in the District, the most notable being the sinking of a second well and the provision of a second pumping station approximately 250 yards from the first in 1952.

Regular bacteriological water samples have been taken throughout 1962 and all have proved satisfactory.

Bacteriological Examinations on TREATED Water

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Total No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Regional	17	17	Nil
Brampton	15	15	Nil
Gidding & Molesworth	14	14	Nil

There are no public standpipes in the district.

B. R. DIXON, M.P.H.I.A.

